

By: González of El Paso

H.B. No. 1041

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the review of privately operated residential facilities for persons released on parole or to mandatory supervision.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1) "Department" means the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

(2) "Releasee" means a person released on parole or to mandatory supervision.

SECTION 2. REVIEW OF RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES. The department shall review instances in which a releasee housed in a facility operated under contract with the department has absconded from supervision, with a particular emphasis on facilities in which the rate of absconsion exceeds the statewide average for all facilities. The department shall analyze the factors that contribute to releasees absconding, include to what extent a higher rate of absconsion from a particular facility is attributable to the types of releasees residing in the facility or to issues related to the staff of the facility, and make recommendations regarding:

(1) improvements to the procedures used by the department to:

(A) assess whether a releasee is likely to abscond from supervision; and

(B) identify the appropriate residence for a

1 releasee; and

2 (2) legislative changes to the department's
3 contracting powers, including any provisions to:

4 (A) determine the most suitable private vendors
5 with which to contract for the housing, supervision, and
6 programmatic support of releasees; and

7 (B) establish minimum requirements for the
8 staffing of a facility housing releasees under a contract with the
9 department.

10 SECTION 3. REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2018, the
11 department shall report the results of the review and analysis
12 required by Section 2 of this Act and make recommendations to the
13 governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
14 representatives, and the standing legislative committees with
15 primary jurisdiction over the department.

16 SECTION 4. ASSISTANCE BY BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES. On
17 request of the department, the Board of Pardons and Paroles shall
18 provide information to the department or otherwise assist the
19 department in conducting the review and preparing the report
20 required by this Act.

21 SECTION 5. EXPIRATION. This Act expires June 1, 2019.

22 SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
23 1, 2017.